

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/922,964

Applicant(s)

NEUGEBAUER ET AL.

Examiner

Steven D. Maki

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All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Steven D. Maki.

(3) Adam Neff (41218).

(2) John Hemenway.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 08 September 2005.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 32,36 and 37.

Identification of prior art discussed: see interview summary attachment.

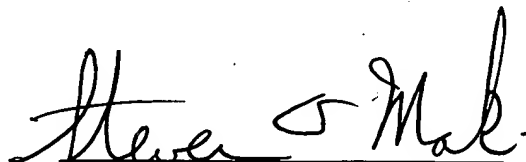
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached, ^{as to allowable subject matter} g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: see interview summary attachment.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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Interview Summary Attachment

Art discussed: Japan 10-138715, Japan 11-240314, Europe 1072445, Herbelleau (US 4298046), Japan 4-100706, US 5714026, and newly cited US 66967772 (Mancosu et al) and US 6531012 (Ishiyama). Copy given to applicant's representative.

Discussed issues of use of sipes to affect RAT, all sipes in block being inclined, twisting of sipe, part or entire width sipes, symmetrical sidewalls of block. Examiner commented Japan 715's teaching to use constant inclination partial width sipes to affect RAT, Japan 314's teaching to use "twisted" full width sipes to affect RAT, Japan 706's teaching to use constant angle full width sipes and inclined sidewalls ("asymmetrical blocks") to affect RAT, and Herbelleu et al's full width constant inclination angle oppositely inclined sipes, which inherently affect RAT. Note that Wakabayashi uses sipes to affect RAT. Noted that Ishiyama (col. 5 lines 14) and Manosu et al (col. 7 line 55) teach modeling. No agreement reached as to claims 32, 36, 37 in amendment filed 7-19-05; examiner noting that claim 32 fails to exclude additional sipes and thereby reads on sipes of Japan 715, product by process language fails to define tire different from that disclosed by Japan 706, claim 37 fails to require different sipes from that disclosed by Japan 715 or Japan 706. Examiner proposed allowable subject matter: Amend claim 32 to recite a method of manufacturing a tire including steps of providing a tread pattern [including "symmetrical sidewalls"] and varying the angle of inclination of the sipes of the blocks on the first and second sides such that [the tread pattern and sipes of claim 32 is obtained] and such that the residual aligning torque is changed and

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a desired residual aligning torque is obtained and a pneumatic tire is formed based on said desired residual aligning torque, and the subject matter of (1) the sipes being "across the entire width of the block" and (2) "all" sipes at first angle on first side and "all" sipes at second opposite angle at second side.

Examiner informed applicant's representative of the following oral translation of Japan 715 obtained from a PTO translator:

(1) "In the present invention, sipe having an opening at one end to the block wall surface is slanted or inclined in the depth direction and the orientation inclination in the depth direction of each sipe allocated to one block with one normal line of one line rising on block surface and at the time of compression deformation, the torque can be generated. Therefore, without affecting on block shape or pattern shape, a tire that is improved in linear stability can be presented by reducing residual horizontal force" (paragraph 9).

(2) "Sipe 9 is preferably formed on each wall surface 10 of block B, but it can be installed on only two surfaces 10 or three wall surfaces. Also, two or more sipes 9 may be installed on only one wall surface" (paragraph 25).